



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE



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Policy and Governmental Affairs
End of Session Report

JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER



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Passed Legislation, that greatly impacts GLO:



Bill Number:

HB 622

Program Areas Affected:

Coastal Resources

Author/Sponsor:

Eiland/Hegar

Caption(Final Version):

Relating to the report by the General Land Office to the legislature on the effectiveness of the coastal management program.

Effective Date:

June 14, 2013

Summary of Bill:

HB 622 requires that the General Land Office submit a report on the effectiveness of the coastal management program every two years. This report is due on or before January 15th of odd numbered years. Previously this report was prepared annually, but only submitted to the legislature every two years.

Implementation Required:

Submit report on a biennial basis.



Bill Number:

HB 724

Program Areas Affected:

Energy Resources/Archives & Records

Author/Sponsor:

Guillen/Zaffirini

Caption(Final Version):

Relating to the creation of a commission to study unclaimed land grant mineral proceeds.

Effective Date:

September 1, 2013

Summary of Bill:

The bill creates a 17 member commission to study unclaimed land grant mineral proceeds in the possession of the Comptroller, by quantifying the amount and developing procedures to determine ownership, notify owners, and distribute the proceeds.

The bill defines an original land grant as the initial conveyance, title, or patent, from: the Crown of Spain, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, or this state. The commission will be made up of 3 members who represent the interest of the land grant heirs, appointed by the governor; 3 members who have expertise in property law, appointed by the governor; the lieutenant governor or up to 2 designees; the speaker of the house of representatives or up to 2 designees; the commissioner of the General Land Office or 2 designees; the Comptroller or 2 designees; the executive director of the Texas Historical Commission or 2 designees; the state historian or a designee.

Implementation Required:

Members shall be appointed or designated by December 31, 2013. The General Land Office will need to participate in the meetings and be prepared to provide any assistance the commission needs in order to complete the study.



Bill Number:

HB 1044

Program Areas Affected:

Coastal Resources

Author/Sponsor:

Eiland/Williams

Caption(Final Version):

Relating to the operation of all-terrain vehicles and recreational off-highway vehicles.

Effective Date:

September 1, 2013

Summary of Bill:

HB 1044 authorizes an operator of an all-terrain vehicle to drive the vehicle on a beach that is open to motor vehicle traffic.

A person operating an all-terrain vehicle on public property or a beach must hold or is under the direct supervision of a person who holds a safety certificate or certification. Requires the person with the certificate to have it in their possession when they operate an all-terrain vehicle on public property or a beach, and display the certificate at the request of any law enforcement officer.

Authorizes the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) or a county or municipality to prohibit the operation of an all-terrain vehicle on a beach if TxDOT or the governing body of the county or municipality determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

Implementation Required:

None. Informational only.



Bill Number:
HB 2571

Program Areas Affected:
Financial Management

Author/Sponsor:
Keffer/Fraser

Caption(Final Version):

Relating to the inspection of certain information regarding the production, transportation, sale, and marketing of oil and gas from state land.

Effective Date:
September 1, 2013

Summary of Bill:

HB 2571 allows the General Land Office to assess penalties on lessees who do not produce information requested in an audit in a timely manner. The bill requires lessees to produce within 60 days information or documents requested by the commissioner, attorney general, or governor. If unable to provide the requested information within 60 days, the lessee would have to provide a written response within 30 days explaining why it was unable to do so. The requestor could then extend the deadline for receiving the information or deny the request. If the requestor chose to not extend the deadline the lessee would then have 5 days to produce the information. A lessee who chose to withhold the information on a good faith legal basis would have to give the requestor a detailed explanation of the reason for withholding the information no later than 60 days after receiving the request.

The General Land Office commissioner could assess a penalty against a lessee who intentionally withheld information past the deadline. The maximum penalty is \$100 per day after the deadline to produce the information for the first 60 days and \$1000 per day for each day after. The commissioner can not assess a penalty for withholding information on a good faith legal basis until the commissioner determines that the requestor was entitled to the information.

Implementation Required:

Financial Management can start to assess fines after September 1, 2013. Policy or rules on how to proceed, need to be developed.



Bill Number:

HB 2623

Program Areas Affected:

Coastal Resources/Professional Services

Author/Sponsor:

Oliveira/Lucio

Caption(Final Version):

Relating to the authority of certain counties and the General Land Office to temporarily close a beach or beach access point.

Effective Date:

May 24, 2013

Summary of Bill:

HB 2623 authorizes the closure of a public beach on the Gulf of Mexico to protect public health and safety during a space launch or space flight activities. HB 2623 outlines summer dates where approval of the General Land Office is required prior to approval of the launch. The General Land Office may also adopt rules governing the closure of a beach for space flight activities and enter into a memorandum of agreement with a county that plans beach closures.

This bill was adopted to encourage SpaceX to build a launch facility adjacent to Bocca Chicca Beach in Cameron County.

Implementation Required:

If desired, adopt rules governing the closure of a beach for space flight activities. Finalize memorandum of agreement with Cameron County.



Bill Number:

HB 3212

Program Areas Affected:

Professional Services

Author/Sponsor:

Phillips/Estes

Caption(Final Version):

Relating to the Red River Boundary Compact and the creation of the Red River Boundary Commission.

Effective Date:

June 14, 2013

Summary of Bill:

The bill would establish the Red River Boundary Commission (RRBC), providing for the powers, duties, membership, and compensation of the RRBC. The bill provides that the General Land Office, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality would provide staff support to the newly created commission. The RRBC would be established to oversee the redrawing of the boundary between Texas and Oklahoma in the Texoma area.

The RRBC is comprised of 5 members appointed by the Governor to represent private property owners; local governments; state elected officials, and the general public.

The bill requires the RRBC, not later than January 15, 2015, to report to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and appropriate committees of the legislature RRBC's finding and recommendations concerning joint action by this state and the State of Oklahoma regarding amendment of the Texoma Area Boundary Agreement to incorporate the boundary between this state and the State of Oklahoma in the Texhoma area as redrawn.

Implementation Required:

Professional Services needs to be available to respond to request of the RRBC and assistance as needed.



Bill Number:

HB 3436

Program Areas Affected:

Asset Management/Professional Services

Author/Sponsor:

Cook/Whitmire

Caption(Final Version):

Relating to the use and development of state property, including real property within the Capitol complex.

Effective Date:

June 14, 2013

Summary of Bill:

HB 3436 prohibits the Texas Facilities Commission from selling, leasing or otherwise disposing of property within the Capitol Complex. The Texas Facilities Commission can only develop a property within the Capitol Complex using the public private partnership process if specifically authorized by the Legislature. This bill also prohibits any agency other than an institution of higher education from entering in to a public private partnership before September 1, 2014.

HB 3436 amends Section 31.155, Natural Resources Code, to exclude properties in the Capitol Complex from the General Land Office's real property inventory and evaluation process.

Implementation Required:

Exclude any properties within the complex from future reviews.



Bill Number:

HB 3459

Program Areas Affected:

Coastal Resources

Author/Sponsor:

Eiland/Taylor

Caption(Final Version):

Relating to access to and protection of certain coastal areas.

Effective Date:

September 1, 2013

Summary of Bill:

HB 3459 allows the Land Commissioner to determine when a storm causes an avulsive change or when the movement is gradual and within the normal rate of erosion in order to determine where the public has an easement. The bill allows the Land Commissioner to issue an order following a storm that would suspend line of vegetation determinations for a period of up to 3 years. During the duration of the order the public easement will be 200 feet from mean low tide. At the expiration of the order the Commissioner shall determine if the event was avulsive, and may consult the Bureau of Economic Geology of The University of Texas at Austin and consider other factors regarding the natural erosion rate for the effected area when making the determination.

HB 3459 also established, a joint interim committee to study the implementation of the bill, the feasibility and desirability of a storm surge protection system that includes a system of gates and barriers to storm surge, and authorizing coastal property owners to grant easements to governmental entities to construct and maintain stabilized dunes in connection with or separately from the system. The interim committee includes the members of Senate Natural Resources Committee, House Land and Resource Management Committee and two Senators and two Representatives from the coast.

Implementation Required:

If desired, adopt rules on the three year moratorium.



Bill Number:

SB 59

Program Areas Affected:

All

Author/Sponsor:

Nelson/Callegari

Caption(Final Version):

Relating to certain required reports and other documents prepared by state agencies and institutions of higher education.

Effective Date:

September 1, 2013

Summary of Bill:

SB 59 updated reporting requirements across many agencies, the General Land Office is impacted by:

Section 25: The School Land Board and the Veterans Land Board (VLB) will have to send certified copies of their minutes to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Section 26: The agency will have to report payable and binding encumbrances for all appropriation years annually to the Comptroller and Legislative Budget Board only, no longer the state auditor.

Section 58: Each State Agency must develop a state agency energy savings plan that includes a percentage goal reducing the agencies use of electricity, gasoline and natural gas. Must file a report quarterly to Governor and the Legislative Budget Board listing the goals and progress of the agency in meeting the goals, and also must post report on website.

Section 86: Natural Resources 141.079 regarding geothermal energy report date is changed to January 1st of each odd-numbered year.

Section 87: Bond Review Board report, Natural Resources 161.2111, by VLB is due annually instead of semi-annually.



Section 88: Natural Resources 162.003 the VLB must include in the annual bond review board report a performance of the loans.

Section 97: Any state agency that received money through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and has spent all the money and completed all projects related to the money is no longer required to submit reports related to the agency's receipt of that money to the Legislative Budget Board.

Implementation Required:

Update required reports for the agency.



Bill Number:

SB 211

Program Areas Affected:

Asset Management/Professional Services

Author/Sponsor:

Nichols/Dutton

Caption(Final Version):

Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Facilities Commission and to property development plans in connection with governmental entities; authorizing fees.

Effective Date:

June 14, 2013

Summary of Bill:

SB 211 is the Texas Facilities Commission (TFC) sunset bill.

TFC will now develop a Capitol Complex Master Plan. As part of the process, TFC is required include several agencies in the development, including the General Land Office. The plan must be submitted for review and comment to the General Land Office at least 60 days prior to a public meeting on the plan.

SB 211 also amends the Public Private Partnership process (PPP). If an agency cannot come to agreement with a local government on a zoning change for a state owned property that will be developed, as a PPP, the agency may appeal to a newly created special board of review. The Land Commissioner will chair the special board of review, and the other members will include the mayor, county judge, executive director of the agency and a member appointed by the Governor. The special board of review is required to hold a public hearing and adopt a development plan to govern the development of the property. The General Land Office must adopt rules governing the process.

SB 211 also amends Section 31.155, Natural Resources Code, to exclude properties in the Capitol Complex from the General Land Office's real property inventory and evaluation process.



Implementation Required:

Adopt rules governing the special board of review process for Public Private Partnerships. Exclude any properties within the complex from future reviews.



Bill Number:

SB 246

Program Areas Affected:

Legal Services

Author/Sponsor:

West/Harper-Brown

Caption(Final Version):

Relating to the electronic submission of a request for an attorney general opinion.

Effective Date:

September 1, 2013

Summary of Bill:

Senate Bill 246 would allow requests for attorney general opinions to be submitted by email rather than only by certified or registered mail under present law.

Implementation Required:

The General Land Office may submit requests by email if desired.



Bill Number:

SB 984

Program Areas Affected:

Legal Services/School Land Board/Veterans Land Board

Author/Sponsor:

Ellis/Perry

Caption (Final Version):

Relating to the meeting of a governmental body held by videoconference call.

Effective Date:

September 1, 2013

Summary of Bill:

SB 984 allows a governmental body to hold an open meeting via video conference if the presiding member is in a location that is open to the public. Formerly a majority of the quorum had to all be physically present in the same location. It then changes the notice requirements to only require that we post notice of the location where the presiding member will be present. This bill makes it easier to gather the board members for a meeting, since only the presiding member would need to be physically present.

Implementation Required:

None. Informational only.



Bill Number:

SB 1373

Program Areas Affected:

Texas State Veterans Homes

Author/Sponsor:

Hinojosa/Miller

Caption(Final Version):

Relating to the display of the Honor and Remember flag.

Effective Date:

June 14, 2013

Summary of Bill:

SB 1373 requires the displaying of the Honor and Remember Flag at all State buildings and State cemeteries. SB 1373 also requires that the flag be displayed on the following days: the third Saturday in May, "Armed Forces Day"; the last Monday in May, "Memorial Day"; the last Sunday in September, "Gold Star Mother's Day"; the 11th day of November, "Veterans Day"; and any date on which a resident of this state is killed while serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United States.

Implementation Required:

The flag will need to be flown at all state veteran cemeteries.



Bill Number:

SCR 30

Program Areas Affected:

Professional Services

Author/Sponsor:

Uresti/Nevarez

Caption(Final Version):

Granting permission to the State of Texas to sue The University of Texas System.

Effective Date:

June 14, 2013

Summary of Bill:

The resolution allows the State of Texas, on behalf of the Permanent School Fund (PSF) and through Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the General Land Office and Chairman of the School Land Board to sue The University of Texas System (UT), Board of Regents regarding a boundary issue.

The university lands were originally surveyed in 1879 by R. M. Thomson, and later resurveyed by Frank F. Friend, who filed his survey with the General Land Office in 1939. The Friend survey placed the western boundary of the university lands as much as 1000 feet west of the previously established line.

In 2008, the UT System began to moving their fence to the west to align with the Friend survey, but the General Land Office disputes the boundary established by the Friend survey. The lands in conflict are subject to lease for oil and gas exploration. It is believed by the General Land Office that any attempt by the UT System to lease the tracts as described in the Friend resurvey would wrongfully include 157 acres of PSF land; potentially creating a loss in PSF revenue earned via oil and gas leases. This resolution is the only avenue to allow the General Land Office and the UT System to present evidence and have a final determination as to the lawful property line.

Implementation Required:

Legal and Professional Services need to pursue a resolution to the dispute.



Non-GLO Legislation with Minor Impact

By Program Area:



Administration

Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 586	Workman/ Deuell	Relating to the wavier of sovereign immunity for certain design and construction arising under written contracts with state agencies.	September 1, 2013	HB 586 waives sovereign immunity for breach of contract suits over \$250,000 for engineering, architectural, or construction services or for materials related to engineering, architectural, or construction services.	Contracts will have to be adjusted to reflect the new provisions.
HB 1050	Callegari/ Fraser	Relating to purchasing and other contracts by governmental entities.	September 1, 2013	HB 1050 makes changes to procurement laws regarding use of design-build firms, purchasing cooperatives that contract for construction work and awards of contracts to non-resident bidders. The bill also makes change in procurement laws for some local government and transit authorities.	None. Informational only.
HB 1726	Bohac/ Zaffirini	Relating to shipping logistics and coordination services for state agencies.	June 14, 2013	HB 1726 allows the comptroller to contract with a vendor to oversee shipping logistics and coordination services for all state agencies and to pay the contract from the anticipated cost savings realized under the contract. The vendor will arrange the shipment of goods, parcels, and freight using the shipping company selected by the state agency through competitive bidding that provides the best value to the agency for the shipment. A state agency may arrange all shipments of goods, parcels, and freight.	Coordinate with the Comptroller for shipping services, if the Comptroller chooses to implement this bill.



Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 1965	Harper-Brown/ Zaffirini	Relating to the state contracting duties of the quality assurance team and Contract Advisory Team.	September 1, 2013	HB 1965 makes changes to the duties of the Contract Advisory Team (CAT), including developing or recommending changes to policies and procedures regarding information technology projects; reviewing solicitation and contract documents for contracts over \$10 million; developing and recommending policies and procedures to improve state agency contract management practices; and performing risk assessments to determine the appropriate level of management and oversight of contracts. State agencies are required to comply with CAT recommendations or submit a written explanation regarding why the recommendation was not applicable. The make up of the CAT was also changed from 5 members to 6 by removing the Attorney General and adding a representative from the Health and Human Services Commission and a small state agency.	The General Land Office will need to follow any changes made by the Contract Advisory Team to procurement processes.
HB 1994	Reynolds/ Zaffirini	Relating to the purchase of certain commodity items by a state agency.	September 1, 2013	HB 1994 adds an additional exemption from the requirement that agencies make certain information technology commodity purchases through the Department of Information Resources (DIR) contracts by either written exemption from DIR if the item is not available through a DIR contract or by purchasing through a local government purchasing cooperative.	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 3116	Cook/ Schwertner	Relating to the recovery of uniform statewide accounting project costs from state agencies and vendors.	September 1, 2013	HB 3116 allows the Comptroller to recover costs from agencies or vendors that use its enterprise resource planning system.	None. Informational only.
SB 1681	Zaffirini/ Harper-Brown	Relating the oversight and management of state contracts.	November 1, 2013	SB 1681 makes changes to procurement statutes. Section 1 allows the comptroller to establish requirements that can exclude small or routine contracts from Ch. 2262. Section 2 and 3 change the requirements for training for contract managers. Section 4 adds a training requirement for governmental bodies and a vendor performance tracking system. Section 5 relates to the duties of the Contract Advisory Team (CAT) and allows them to make recommendations on the solicitation of contract documents with a value of at least \$10 million. The bill requires the CAT to provide those recommendations to the comptroller and state agency. The state agency shall either comply with the recommendation or submit a written explanation as to why they will not comply. Section (f) was added to the bill to allow an expedited review process for solicitations and contracts which have a low risk of for which routine contract templates will be used. Section 7 requires the CAT to develop uniform forms for drafting contracts and for reporting contractor performance. State agencies are not required to use these forms but may if they wish.	<p>Legal will need to provide all contract templates to the CAT team and receive comment/feedback.</p> <p>Contract Managers may need to earn certifications, depending on what the comptroller develops.</p> <p>Contracts over \$10 million will need to be submitted to the CAT.</p>



Asset Management

Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 1968	Deshotel/ Williams	Relating to the transfer of certain state property from the Texas Juvenile Justice Department to Jefferson County.	September 1, 2013	HB 1968 requires the Texas Juvenile Justice Department to donate and transfer ownership of real property located in Jefferson County to the County, which is required by the bill to use the property for a purpose that benefits the public interest of the state.	Update agency records.
HB 2015	Davis, J./ Watson	Relating to the proper classification of workers performing services under certain governmental contracts.	January 1, 2014	HB 2015 amends the Labor Code to require the Workforce Commission to adopt rules for proper classification of employees and independent contractors individuals who provide services under a governmental contract, specifies that a person who improperly classifies an individual in violation of the rules shall pay a penalty of \$200 for each individual improperly classified, and establishes a three year statute of limitations for penalties under the section.	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 2256	Howard/ Watson	Relating to the view of the State Capitol.	June 14, 2013	HB 2256 established the Congress Avenue View Corridor by adding additional building limitations within a portion of the existing corridor along Congress Avenue from Cesar Chavez Street to 11 th Street. The bill limits and construction to a maximum height of 90' within 40' of Congress Avenue on the East side and within 60' of Congress Avenue on the West Side. The bill codifies the local zoning restrictions in state law.	None. Informational only.
HB 2895	Bonnen/ Taylor	Relating to authorizing the sale of certain real property in Brazoria County by the Texas Board of Criminal Justice.	June 14, 2013	HB 2895 requires the Texas Board of Criminal Justice to sell a parcel of land described in the bill to Brazoria County.	Asset Management will need to assist the Texas Board of Criminal Justice with the transaction.
SB 157	Hegar/ Aycock	Relating to the Parrie Haynes Trust.	April 24, 2013	SB 157 repeals a law which directed the Texas Juvenile Justice Commission to transfer ownership of the Parrie Haynes Trust to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with the assistance of the Office of Attorney General. The repeal of the law leaves the property with the Texas Juvenile Justice Commission as was established in the original trust.	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 700	Hegar/ Kacal	Relating to energy and water management planning and reporting by state agencies and institutions of higher education.	September 1, 2013	SB 700 requires the State Energy Conservation Commission to develop a template for state agencies and higher education institutions to report on percentage goals for reducing the use of water, electricity, gasoline and natural gas.	The General Land Office will need to establish goals and include those goals in the agency's comprehensive energy and water management plan.
SB 894	Whitmire/ Bonnen	Relating the real property within the Capitol complex.	June 14, 2013	<p>SB 894 prohibits the Texas Facilities Commission from selling, leasing or otherwise disposing of property within the Capitol Complex. The Texas Facilities Commission can only develop a property within the Capitol Complex using the public private partnership process if specifically authorized by the Legislature.</p> <p>SB 894 also excludes properties in the Capitol Complex from the General Land Office's real property inventory and evaluation process.</p>	Exclude any properties within the complex from future reviews.
SB 1023	Watson/ Naishtat	Relating to the renewal and extension of a 99-year lease of certain state property to the City of Austin.	August 15, 2016	SB 1023 renews a 99 year lease to the city of Austin for 3 tracts of state owned land: Republic Square Park, Wooldridge Park and Brush Park.	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 1116	Zaffirini/ Kuempel	Relating to the creation of the Crystal Clear Special Utility District.	June 14, 2013	SB 1116 creates a special utility district in Comal, Guadalupe and Hays Counties. If the district is confirmed by election, it would receive the assets, debts and contractual rights and obligations of Crystal Clear Water Supply Corporation, which would then be dissolved. Upon such dissolution Certificate of Convenience and Necessity No. 10297 would be concerned held by the district.	None. Informational only.
SB 1157	Schwertner/ Otto	Relating to the conveyance of certain property for use by Sam Houston State University.	May 18, 2013	SB 1157 requires the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, not later than January 1, 2014, to donate and transfer certain real property to the board of regents of the Texas State University System for use by Same Houston State University.	Update agency records.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 1297	Watson/ Branch	Relating to written communications between members of a governmental body.	September 1, 2013	SB 1297 would allow governmental bodies to create message boards that would be viewable and searchable by the public, and where members of the governmental bodies could communicate without the communications being constituted as deliberations or a public meeting. The communications would be required to be posted on the message board and viewable and searchable by the public for at least 30 days. The message board would have to be maintained by the governmental body, prominently displayed on the governmental body's website, and only members of the governmental body could post on the message board. Although a message could be removed from the message board after 30 days, the message would have to be maintained for six years and would be considered public information under the Public Information Act. In addition, SB 1297 would not allow the governmental body to take action or vote by posting on the message board, and no message posted on such a board could be considered as the governmental body taking action. The message board must be searchable by the public.	Should the General Land Office decide to create a message board, there would be operational and some fiscal implementation required.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 1906	Hegar/ Zerwas	Relating to the creation of Fort Bend County Municipal Management District No. 1; granting a limited power of eminent domain; providing authority to issue bonds; providing authority to impose assessments, fees, or taxes.	June 14, 2013	SB 1906 creates the Fort Bend County Municipal Management District No. 1. The district's powers and duties include the authorization to issue obligations and impose assessments and property, operation and maintenance, and contract taxes. The bill grants the district a limited power of eminent domain. This district includes Permanent School Fund property.	None. Informational only.



Coastal Resources

Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 586	Workman/ Deuell	Relating to the wavier of sovereign immunity for certain design and construction arising under written contracts with state agencies.	September 1, 2013	HB 586 waives sovereign immunity for breach of contract suits over \$250,000 for engineering, architectural, or construction services or for materials related to engineering, architectural, or construction services.	Contracts will have to be adjusted to reflect the new provisions.
HB 1487	Harper-Brown/ Rodriguez	Relating to the Internet posting of certain information regarding state grants.	September 1, 2013	HB 1487 requires state agencies that make grants over \$25,000 to put on the agency's website the purposes for why the grant was awarded. The agency must also provide a link to the Comptroller's office so that the Comptroller may include the information in a central internet portal.	Post grant information on the General Land Office website and provide a link to the Comptroller.
HB 2741	Phillips/ Nichols	Relating to the regulation of motor vehicles by counties and the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.	June 14, 2013; except for certain sections which will go into effect September 1, 2013.	HB 2741 is a general clean up bill for the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. Section 94 of the bill amends Subchapter D, Chapter 551 of the Transportation Code by adding regulations for operating a neighborhood electric vehicle, including allowing operation of these vehicles on a public or private beach.	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 3042	Oliveira/ Lucio	Relating to the allocation of state hotel occupancy tax revenue to certain municipalities for cleaning and maintenance of and erosion control for public beaches.	September 1, 2013	HB 3042 increases the hotel tax revenue that South Padre Island will receive from 1 percent to 2 percent, which will provide an additional \$800,000 per year in revenue for beach maintenance activity.	None. Informational only.
HCR 31	Eiland/ Taylor	Designating the Kemp's ridley sea turtle as the official State Sea Turtle of Texas.	May 10, 2013	HCR 31 designates the Kemp's Ridley Sea turtle the official State Turtle of Texas.	None. Informational only.
SB 487	Davis/ Lavender	Relating to all-terrain vehicles and recreational off-highway vehicles.	September 1, 2013	SB 487 amends the Transportation Code, to redefine "all-terrain vehicle" as a motor vehicle that, in addition to meeting other specified criteria, is not more than 50 inches wide and that is equipped with a seat or seats, rather than a saddle. The bill also redefines "recreational off-highway vehicle" to mean a motor vehicle that, in addition to meeting other specified criteria, is equipped with a seat or seats, rather than a non-straddle seat, for the rider and, if the vehicle is designed for passenger transport, for one or more passengers.	None. Informational only.



Disaster Recovery

Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 585	Villareal/ Eltime	Relating to ad valorem taxation; creating an offense.	January 1, 2014	HB 585 impacts homes built through the General Land Office disaster recovery program for Hurricanes Ike and Dolly and the 2011 wildfires. Homes repaired or rebuilt that increase in value will not be considered to have new improvements so that the increase in taxable value can be phased in, with a maximum increase of 10% per year.	Coordinate with appraisal districts and homeowners on what paper work will be needed to show the homeowner qualifies for the exemption.
HB 1487	Harper-Brown/ Rodriguez	Relating to the Internet posting of certain information regarding state grants.	September 1, 2013	HB 1487 requires state agencies that make grants over \$25,000 to put on the agency's website the purposes for why the grant was awarded. The agency must also provide a link to the Comptroller's office so that the Comptroller may include the information in a central internet portal.	Post grant information on the General Land Office website and provide a link to the Comptroller.
SB 171	West/ Pickett	Relating to the establishment of a workgroup to study the use by state agencies of a uniform application form following disasters.	June 14, 2013	SB 171 requires the chief of the Division of Emergency Management to establish a work group to determine if a uniform application form for assistance following a disaster may be developed for use by state agencies and persons requesting assistance from state agencies.	Disaster Recovery should participate in the work group so that the information needed for long term recovery is included in the application.



Energy Resources

Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 341	Pitts/ Nichols	Relating to the exclusion of mineral interest from the property interests that may be condemned by a regional tollway authority.	June 14, 2013	HB 341 provides that a regional tollway authority shall exclude from the interest to be condemned all the oil, gas, and sulphur that can be removed from beneath the real property. The exclusion is made without providing the owner of the oil, gas, or sulphur any right of ingress or egress to or from the surface of the land to explore, develop, drill, or mine the property.	Newly built Texas Department of Transportation tollway roads will no longer retain the mineral interest of land condemned for road building, therefore the General Land Office will handle fewer road mineral leaseings and poolings on behalf of TXDOT.
HB 878	Crownover/ Estes	Relating to the filing with the state of electric well logs by operators of oil-related or gas-related wells; providing a penalty.	September 1, 2013	HB 878 requires operators to file well logs with the Railroad Commission not later than 90 days after completion of drilling a well. The bill allows an operator to request confidentiality of the log for 3 years for a land well and 5 years for a bay or offshore well. The bill allows to the Railroad Commission to assess an administrative penalty for the failure to submit a well log.	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 1600	Cook/ Nichols	Relating to the continuation and functions of the Public Utility Commission of Texas, to the transfer of certain functions from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, to the rate for water service, and to the functions of the Office of Public Utility Counsel; authorizing a fee.	September 1, 2013; unless otherwise noted.	<p>HB 1600 continues the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for 10 years and makes revisions to the Utilities Code, Water Code, Local Government Code, and the Special District Local Laws Code relating to the operation and continuation of PUC.</p> <p>The bill authorizes the PUC to issue emergency cease-and-desist orders to electric industry participants and defines notice and hearing requirements for such orders.</p> <p>The bill transfers responsibility for regulating water and wastewater rates, services, and certificates of convenience and necessity from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to PUC, effective September 1, 2014.</p>	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 2446	Crownover/ Estes	Relating to the qualifications of certain electric generation projects for programs designed to encourage the capture and utilization of carbon dioxide for use in enhanced oil recovery.	June 14, 2013	<p>HB 2446 authorizes a franchise tax credit for an entity that implemented a clean energy project and received a certificate of compliance from the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC).</p> <p>The credits may not be issued until September 1, 2018 or the expiration of a limitation of taxable value agreement under Chapter 313 regarding the clean energy project.</p> <p>The bill adds natural gas to the fuels potentially eligible to be used in an advanced clean energy project, and provisions regarding sulfur dioxide emissions at a project involving use of natural gas as fuel.</p>	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 2767	King, P./ Estes	Relating to treating and recycling for beneficial use certain liquid or semi liquid waste arising out of or incidental to drilling for or producing oil or gas.	September 1, 2013	HB 2767 transfers the ownership of fluid oil and gas waste to a person who took the waste fluid for the purpose of treating it for subsequent use and consider it to be that person's property until it was transferred to another person for disposal or use, unless otherwise provided in writing. Additionally, a person who took fluid waste for treatments, produced a treated product suitable for use in the oil and gas drilling, and transferred the treated product to another person with the contractual understanding that it would be used in connection with oil and gas drilling, would not be liable in tort for a consequence of the subsequent use of the related product by another person to whom it was transferred.	None. Informational only.
HB 3309	Crownover/ Estes	Relating to the composition and use of money in the oil and gas cleanup fund.	September 1, 2013	HB 3309 adds that fees collected from the Railroad Commission's issuance of letters of determination for well casing permits to the sources of funding for the oil and gas cleanup fund. Also allows for money in the fund to be used to study and evaluate electronic access to geological data and surfacing depths necessary to protect the state's usable groundwater. Additionally, increases the fund balance ceiling on the fund from \$20 million to \$30 million and the floor from \$10 million to \$25 million.	None. Informational only.



Financial Management

Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 2472	Cook/ Birdwell	Relating to the continuation and functions of the Department of Information Resources and certain procurement functions of the comptroller of public accounts.	September 1, 2013	<p>HB 2472 bill is in response to the Sunset Advisory Commission recommendation of increased coordination and improved data collection between the Comptrollers office and the Department of Information Resources procurement programs, as well as a broader Sunset evaluation of the state's overall approach to procurement and contracting in 2021.</p> <p>HB 2472 also adds a customer advisory committee to the department and authorizes Department of Information Resources to determine administrative fees; which could be passed on to agencies.</p>	May have to start paying Department of Information Resources administrative fees.
HB 3116	Cook/ Schwertner	Relating to the recovery of uniform statewide accounting project costs from state agencies and vendors.	September 1, 2013	HB 3116 allows the Comptroller to recover costs from agencies or vendors that use its enterprise resource planning system.	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 1681	Zaffirini/ Harper-Brown	Relating the oversight and management of state contracts.	November 1, 2013	SB 1681 makes changes to procurement statutes. Section 1 allows the comptroller to establish requirements that can exclude small or routine contracts from Ch. 2262. Section 2 and 3 change the requirements for contract manager training. Section 4 adds a training requirement for governmental bodies and a vendor performance tracking system. Section 5 relates to the duties of the Contract Advisory Team (CAT) and allows them to make recommendations on the solicitation of contract documents with a value of at least \$10 million. The bill requires the CAT to provide those recommendations to the comptroller and state agency. The state agency shall either comply with the recommendation or submit a written explanation as to why not. Section (f) was added to the bill to allow an expedited review process for solicitations and contracts which have a low risk of for which routine contact templates will be used. Section 7 requires the CAT to develop uniform forms for drafting contracts and for reporting contractor performance.	<p>Legal will need to provide all contract templates to the CAT team and receive comment/feedback. State agencies are not required to use these forms but may if they wish.</p> <p>Contract Managers may need to earn certifications, depending on what the comptroller develops.</p> <p>Contracts over \$10 million will need to be submitted to the CAT.</p>



Human Resources

Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 12	Zaffirini/ Flynn	Relating to gifts made to a state agency for a state employee salary supplement.	June 14, 2013	HB 12 requires state agencies to post information online regarding the amount of any gift used as a salary supplement for an agency employee; adopt rules relating to conflict of interest provisions and to post those rules on the agency website. Agencies are required to compile information on gifts made by entities created solely for the support of a state agency and report it to the state auditor and the legislature. The bill specifies what and how this information is to be reported.	The agency may adopt rules, if desired.
HB 480	Alvarado/ Ellis	Relating to leave for certain state employees who are attending educational activities of their children.	June 14, 2013	HB 480 allows a state employee to take up to 8 hours of leave without a deduction in salary for the purposes of attending educational activities of the employee's child.	Update employee handbook.



Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 1188	Thompson, S/ Whitmire	Relating to limiting the liability of persons who employ persons with criminal convictions.	June 14, 2013	HB 1188 limits liability for an employer, premises owner, or contractor solely for negligently hiring a person convicted of a criminal offence and includes circumstances in which the limitation of liability does not apply. Exceptions from the protections: 1) third party knew or should have known of conviction or 2) the conviction was for an offence of a sexually violent nature.	None. Informational only.
HB 1265	Guillen/ Zaffirini	Relating to providing information to state employees about insurance available to those employees under a group coverage plan.	June 14, 2013	HB 1265 requires the Employee Retirement System board of trustees to ensure that employees receive information about life coverage, accidental death and dismemberment coverage, and long-term and short-term loss of salary coverage, if those coverages are included in a group coverage plan.	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 2015	Davis, J./ Watson	Relating to the proper classification of workers performing services under certain governmental contracts.	January 1, 2014	HB 2015 amends the Labor Code to require the Workforce Commission to adopt rules for proper classification of employees and independent contractors individuals who provide services under a governmental contract, specifies that a person who improperly classifies an individual in violation of the rules shall pay a penalty of \$200 for each individual improperly classified, and establishes a three year statute of limitations for penalties under the section.	None. Informational only.
HB 2020	Crownover/ Deuell	Relating to the adoption of wellness policies and programs by state agencies.	June 14, 2013	HB 2020 permits state agencies to develop a wellness program that would increase productivity and reduce health insurance costs. Additionally, an agencies can offer financial incentives for participation, offer onsite clinic or pharmacy services and adopt additional wellness policies determined by the agency.	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 2155	Callegari/ Duncan	Relating to the eligibility of certain dependents for coverage under the state employee group benefits program.	June 14, 2013	HB 2155 relaxes one of the requirements for a state employee's child to qualify as a dependent eligible for coverage under the state employee group benefits program. Specifically, relating to the coverage of a child that is mentally or physically incapacitated, and expand eligibility to children whose coverage had previously lapsed.	None. Informational only.
HB 3116	Cook/ Schwertner	Relating to the recovery of uniform statewide accounting project costs from state agencies and vendors.	September 1, 2013	HB 3116 allows the Comptroller to recover costs from agencies or vendors that use its enterprise resource planning system.	None. Informational only.
SB 1459	Duncan/ Callegari	Relating to the Employees Retirement System of Texas.	September 1, 2013	SB 1459 makes numerous changes to the Employees Retirement System of Texas, including: raising the contribution rates for members and a new contribution rate for state agencies; increasing the minimum retirement and the calculation final average salary for employees hired after September 1, 2013; implementing tiered retirement health insurance premium contributions for employees who were not vested as of August 31, 2014 and, separating the accounting and actuarial functions of ERS and the Law Enforcement and Custodial Officers Supplemental Retirement Fund for fiscal 2014-15.	Human Resources will need to become familiar with the changes in order to advise General Land Office employees.



Information Systems

Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 16	Flynn/ Ellis	Relating to the requirement that a state agency post its internal auditor's audit plan and audit report and other audit information on the agency's Internet website.	June 14, 2013	HB 16 requires agencies to post on their website an internal audit plan and annual report. The annual report is due November 1 st every year.	Post internal auditor's plan and annual report, once completed, on agency's website.
HB 1487	Harper-Brown/ Rodriguez	Relating to the Internet posting of certain information regarding state grants.	September 1, 2013	HB 1487 requires state agencies that make grants over \$25,000 to put on the agency's website the purposes for why the grant was awarded. The agency must also provide a link to the Comptroller's office so that the Comptroller may include the information in a central internet portal.	Post grant information on the General Land Office website and provide a link to the Comptroller.
HB 1994	Reynolds/ Zaffirini	Relating to the purchase of certain commodity items by a state agency.	September 1, 2013	HB 1994 adds an additional exemption from the requirement that agencies make certain information technology commodity purchases through the Department of Information Resources (DIR) contracts by either written exemption from DIR if the item is not available through a DIR contract or by purchasing through a local government purchasing cooperative.	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 2422	Gonzales/ Schwertner	Relating to consideration of advanced Internet-based computing service options in state purchasing and to the use of advanced Internet-based computing services by state agencies.	June 14, 2013	<p>HB 2422 requires that a state agency may consider advanced Internet-based computing service options when making purchases for a major information resources project. The agency will make sure that projects that use advanced Internet-based computing service options meet or exceed required state standards.</p> <p>The Department of Information Resources may review the process for the coordinated development, hosting, and management of computer software for agencies that use advanced Internet-based computing services.</p>	Information System may be asked to explain the agency's process for the coordinated development, hosting, and management of our computer software.
HB 2738	Elkins/ Ellis	Relating to a study by the Department of Information Resources regarding state agency technology efficiency.	May 25, 2013	HB 2738 requires Department of Information Resources to conduct a study to identify legacy systems currently maintained by state agencies other than institutions of higher education.	None. Informational only.
HB 3093	Elkins/ Zaffirini	Relating to information resources technologies of state agencies.	September 1, 2013	HB 3093 requires that Department of Information Resources look at previous and future information services projects to determine cost and performance evaluations. The Department will determine the performance of the implementing state agency, cost and value effectiveness, timeliness, and other performance criteria necessary to assess the quality and value of the investment.	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 279	Watson/ Elkins	Relating to certain information about high-value data sets provided by state agencies to the Department of Information Resources.	September 1, 2013	Currently, state agencies are required to post high-value data sets on their website. SB 279 furthers this by requiring state agencies to provide the Department of Information Resources (DIR) with a description and link to data that is currently available online and requires DIR to post the description and link on the state electronic Internet portal.	None. Informational only.
SB 1101	Van de Putte/ Larson	Relating to the Cybersecurity, Education, and Economic Development Council.	May 10, 2013	The Texas Cybersecurity, Education and Economic Development Council, established during the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, was tasked with making recommendations regarding improving the infrastructure of this state's cybersecurity operations and examining specific actions to accelerate the growth of cybersecurity as an industry in this state. In that bill the Council was set to be abolished on September 1, 2013. This bill extends the deadline till September 1, 2015 so that the report they issued in 2012 can be implemented.	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 1102	Van de Putte/ Larson	Relating to the appointment of a state cybersecurity coordinator.	May 10, 2013	<p>SB 1102 requests that the executive director of the Department of Information Resources designate an employee of the department to be the state cybersecurity coordinator to oversee cybersecurity matters for the state.</p> <p>The coordinator may implement any portion or all of the recommendations made by the Cyber-security, Education, and Economic Development Council.</p>	None. Informational only.
SB 1134	Ellis/ Elkins	Relating to the duties of the Department of Information Resources regarding cybersecurity.	September 1, 2013	<p>SB 1134 requires the Department of Information Resources to establish and administer a clearinghouse for information relating to all aspects of protecting the cybersecurity, develop strategies and a framework for the securing of cyber-infrastructure by state agencies, including critical infrastructure; and cyber-security risk assessment and mitigation planning; develop and provide training to state agencies on cyber-security measures and awareness; provide assistance to state agencies on request regarding the strategies and framework developed under this section; and to promote public awareness of cyber-security issues.</p>	Information System employees might have to attend a cybersecurity training; that the Department of Information Resources will develop and provide.



Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 1297	Watson/ Branch	Relating to written communications between members of a governmental body.	September 1, 2013	<p>SB 1297 would allow governmental bodies to create message boards that would be viewable and searchable by the public, and where members of the governmental bodies could communicate without the communications being constituted as deliberations or a public meeting. The communications would be required to be posted on the message board and viewable and searchable by the public for at least 30 days. The message board would have to be maintained by the governmental body, prominently displayed on the governmental body's website, and only members of the governmental body could post on the message board. Although a message could be removed from the message board after 30 days, the message would have to be maintained for six years and would be considered public information under the Public Information Act. In addition, SB 1297 would not allow the governmental body to take action or vote by posting on the message board, and no message posted on such a board could be considered as the governmental body taking action. The message board must be searchable by the public.</p>	Should the General Land Office decide to create a message board, there would be operational and some fiscal implementation required.



Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 1597	Zaffirini/ Smithee	Relating to the development of state agency information security plans.	September 1, 2013	SB 1597 amends the Government Code to require each state agency to develop and periodically update an information security plan for protecting the security of the agency's information.	Requires a report to the Department of Information Resources no later than October 15 th of every even-numbered year.



Internal Audit

Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 16	Flynn/ Ellis	Relating to the requirement that a state agency post its internal auditor's audit plan and audit report and other audit information on the agency's Internet website.	Immediate; June 14, 2013	HB 16 requires that state agencies post on their website an internal audit plan and annual report. The annual report is due November 1 st every year.	Post internal auditor's plan and annual report, once completed, on agency's website.



Legal Services

Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 586	Workman/ Deuell	Relating to the wavier of sovereign immunity for certain design and construction arising under written contracts with state agencies.	September 1, 2013	HB 586 waives sovereign immunity for breach of contract suits over \$250,000 for engineering, architectural, or construction services or for materials related to engineering, architectural, or construction services.	Contracts will have to be adjusted to reflect the new provisions.
HB 1050	Callegari/ Fraser	Relating to purchasing and other contracts by governmental entities.	September 1, 2013	HB 1050 makes changes to procurement laws regarding use of design-build firms, purchasing cooperatives that contract for construction work and awards of contracts to non-resident bidders. The bill also makes change in procurement laws for some local government and transit authorities.	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 1965	Harper-Brown/ Zaffirini	Relating to the state contracting duties of the quality assurance team and Contract Advisory Team.	September 1, 2013	<p>HB 1965 makes changes to the duties of the Contract Advisory Team, including developing or recommending changes to policies and procedures regarding information technology projects; reviewing solicitation and contract documents for contracts over \$10 million; developing and recommending policies and procedures to improve state agency contract management practices; and performing risk assessments to determine the appropriate level of management and oversight of contracts.</p> <p>State agencies are required to comply with CAT recommendations or submit a written explanation regarding why the recommendation was not applicable. The make up of the CAT was also changed from 5 members to 6 and removing the Attorney General and adding a representative from the Health and Human Services Commission and a small state agency.</p>	The General Land Office will need to follow any changes made by the Contract Advisory Team to procurement processes.



Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 1994	Reynolds/ Zaffirini	Relating to the purchase of certain commodity items by a state agency.	September 1, 2013	HB 1994 adds an additional exemption from the requirement that agencies make certain information technology commodity purchases through the Department of Information Resources (DIR) contracts by either written exemption from DIR if the item is not available through a DIR contract or by purchasing through a local government purchasing cooperative.	None. Informational only.
HB 2015	Davis, J./ Watson	Relating to the proper classification of workers performing services under certain governmental contracts.	January 1, 2014	HB 2015 amends the Labor Code to require the Workforce Commission to adopt rules for proper classification of employees and independent contractors individuals who provide services under a governmental contract, specifies that a person who improperly classifies an individual in violation of the rules shall pay a penalty of \$200 for each individual improperly classified, and establishes a three year statute of limitations for penalties under the section.	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 2472	Cook/ Birdwell	Relating to the continuation and functions of the Department of Information Resources and certain procurement functions of the comptroller of public accounts.	September 1, 2013	<p>HB 2472 is in response to the Sunset Advisory Commission recommendation of increased coordination and improved data collection between the Comptrollers office and the Department of Information Resources (DIR) procurement programs, as well as a broader Sunset evaluation of the state's overall approach to procurement and contracting in 2021.</p> <p>HB 2472 also adds a customer advisory committee to the department and authorizes DIR to determine administrative fees; which could be passed on to agencies.</p>	May have to start paying DIR's administrative fees.
HB 3648	Harper-Brown/ Paxton	Relating to the award and performance of certain state contracts.	June 14, 2013	HB 3648 requires an agency's governing body to hold a public meeting if a contract awarded is substantially different from the original request for proposal, including extending the length of the contract by more than six months or the value increases by more than 10%. The bill also adds an additional requirement to be considered when awarding a contract to an out of state company.	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 176	Carona/ Flynn	Relating to the distribution of certain consultants' reports.	September 1, 2013	SB 176 adds a new Section to the Government Code relating to consulting services contracts. This new provision allows, at the contracting agency's discretion, for the distribution of consultant reports and the posting of the report to the contracting agency's internet website or the website of a standing committee in the legislature. This new section requires that appropriate language be included in all consulting services contracts in order to effectuate this distribution and/or internet posting.	Allows the General Land Office to approve any requests from other agencies and the legislature for reports of consultants that the General Land Office contracted with. At the General Land Office's discretion, reports may be distributed or posted to a website. New consulting services contracts must contain the new language specified. It may be necessary to create a new website section for consultant's reports.
SB 251	West/ Carter	Relating to an unsworn declaration made by an employee of a state agency or political subdivision in the performance of the employee's job duties.	September 1, 2013	SB 251 would allow an unsworn declaration to be used in place of a written sworn declaration, verification, certification, oath, or affidavit by an employee of a state agency or a political subdivision in performance of the employee's duties. This would allow certain documents to be produced without being sealed or notarized.	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 893	Ellis/ Harper-Brown	Relating to in camera review and filing of the information at issue in a suit filed under the public information law.	September 1, 2013	SB 893 provides for information that is the subject of a lawsuit under the Public Information Act to be protected from public disclosure during the suit.	None. Informational only.
SB 1297	Watson/ Branch	Relating to written communications between members of a governmental body.	September 1, 2013	SB 1297 would allow governmental bodies to create message boards that would be viewable and searchable by the public, and where members of the governmental bodies could communicate without the communications being constituted as deliberations or a public meeting. The communications would be required to be posted on the message board and viewable and searchable by the public for at least 30 days. The message board would have to be maintained by the governmental body, prominently displayed on the governmental body's website, and only members of the governmental body could post on the message board. Although a message could be removed from the message board after 30 days, the message would have to be maintained for six years and would be considered public information under the Public Information Act. In addition, SB 1297 would not allow the governmental body to take action or vote by posting on the message board, and no message posted on such a board could be considered as the governmental body taking action. The message board must be searchable by the public.	Should the General Land Office decide to create a message board, there would be operational and some fiscal implementation required.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 1681	Zaffirini/ Harper-Brown	Relating the oversight and management of state contracts.	November 1, 2013	SB 1681 makes changes to procurement statutes. Section 1 allows the comptroller to establish requirements that can exclude small or routine contracts from Ch. 2262. Section 2 and 3 change the requirements for training for contract managers. Section 4 adds a training requirement for governmental bodies and a vendor performance tracking system. Section 5 relates to the duties of the Contract Advisory Team (CAT) and allows them to make recommendations on the solicitation of contract documents with a value of at least \$10 million. The bill requires the CAT to provide the recommendations to the comptroller and state agency. The state agency shall either comply with the recommendation or submit a written explanation as to why not. Section (f) was added to the bill to allow an expedited review process for solicitations and contracts which have a low risk of for which routine contract templates will be used. Section 7 requires the CAT to develop uniform forms for drafting contracts and for reporting contractor performance.	<p>Legal will need to provide all contract templates to the CAT team and receive comment/feedback.</p> <p>State agencies are not required to use these forms but may if they wish.</p> <p>Contract Managers may need to earn certifications, depending on what the comptroller develops. Contracts over \$10 million will need to be submitted to the CAT.</p>



Policy and Governmental Affairs

Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 2252	Ashby/ Nichols	Relating to the eligibility of charitable organizations to participate in a state employee charitable campaign.	September 1, 2013	HB 2252 changes the budget requirement for charitable organizations that may participate in the state employee charitable campaign. Charitable organizations with a budget of up to \$250,000 would be allowed to submit IRS form 990; the current limit is \$100,000. Above this amount annual auditing is required.	None. Informational only.
SB 217	Patrick/ Anchia	Relating to the continuation and functions of the state employee charitable campaign.	September 1, 2013	SB 217 is the Sunset Bill for the State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC). The bill continues the SECC for four years and directs the Comptroller to provide administrative support including assistance with development and oversight of contracts and budget. The bill places the SECC under the guidance of the State Policy Committee (SPC). The bill changes the make up of the SPC and reduces the members from 13 to 9. The SPC is required to establish the organization and structure of the SECC at the state and local levels. The bills purpose is to provide a leadership structure and statutory direction necessary for the SECC to function effectively and efficiently.	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 328	Carona/ Gonzales, L.	Relating to entrepreneurs-in-residence at state agencies.	September 1, 2013	SB 328 allows state agencies to hire an “entrepreneur-in-residence” or contract for services to improve outreach and strengthen coordination and interaction with the private sector; facilitate the understanding and use of technological advances to make state government more transparent and interactive; and implement the best private sector practices to make state government programs simpler, easier to access, more efficient, and more responsive to users.	None. Informational only.



Professional Services

Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 4/ SJR 1	Ritter/ Fraser	Relating to the administration of the Texas Water Development Board and the funding of water projects by the boards and other entities; authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds.	September 1, 2013 except sections relating to SJR 1 which only go into effect if SJR 1 is approved by the voters.	HB 4 provides that the Texas Water Development Fund (TWDF) be composed of three full-time members rather than six part time members. The bill created the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) and the State Water Implementation Revenue Fund for Texas (SWIRFT), as special funds in the state treasury, but outside of General Revenue. These funds can be used without further legislative action appropriation by TWDB to finance projects in the state water plan. SJR 1 is the accompanying constitutional amendment that will be put before the voters in the November 5, 2013 election.	None. Informational only.
HB 115	Larson/ Uresti	Relating to identification numbers on vessels.	September 1, 2013	HB 115 requires that vessels operated in state waters have identification numbers and a registration decal placed on each side on the forward half of the vessel; was previously the bow (back).	Update markings on General Land Office boats.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 586	Workman/ Deuell	Relating to the wavier of sovereign immunity for certain design and construction arising under written contracts with state agencies.	September 1, 2013	HB 586 waives sovereign immunity for breach of contract suits over \$250,000 for engineering, architectural, or construction services or for materials related to engineering, architectural, or construction services.	Contracts will have to be adjusted to reflect the new provisions.
HB 1050	Callegari/ Fraser	Relating to purchasing and other contracts by governmental entities.	September 1, 2013	HB 1050 makes changes to procurement laws regarding use of design-build firms, purchasing cooperatives that contract for construction work and awards of contracts to non-resident bidders. The bill also makes change in procurement laws for some local government and transit authorities.	None. Informational only.
HB 2615	Johnson/ Fraser	Relating to reporting and information availability requirements for persons impounding, diverting, or otherwise using state water.	September 1, 2013	HB 2615 sets penalties for a person failing to file a statement or comply with a request from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for water use data relating to water rights after the applicable deadline. The penalty is \$100 per day if the person holds a water right permit of 5,000 acre feet or less per year or \$500 per day if the person holds a water right for more than 5,000 acre feet per year.	None. Informational only.
HB 3137	Lucio III/ Lucio	Relating to funding construction of regional water projects.	June 14, 2013	HB 3137 limits the amount of a fee or assessment imposed by the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority.	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 3279	Morrison/ Hegar	Relating to the uprooting of seagrass plants.	September 1, 2013	HB 3279 states that an individual may not uproot or dig out any rooted seagrass though the use of a propeller unless the individual has been licensed or permitted through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. A violation would be a Class C Parks and Wildlife misdemeanor.	None. Informational only.
HCR 59	Hunter/ Lucio	Requesting the speaker and lieutenant governor to create a joint interim committee to study seawater desalination on the Texas coast.	June 14, 2013	HCR 59 requests that the speaker and lieutenant governor create a joint interim committee to study seawater desalination on the Texas coast.	None. Informational only.
SB 764	Watson/ King, T.	Relating to a limitation on liability for prescribed burning conducted on land owned by, leased by, or occupied by certain self-insured governmental units.	May 25, 2013	SB 764 allows a property owner that is a governmental until to self insure rather than requiring the burn manager to maintain an insurance policy when conducting a controlled burn.	None. Informational only



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 894	Whitmire/ Bonnen	Relating the real property within the Capitol complex.	June 14, 2013	<p>SB 894 prohibits the Texas Facilities Commission from selling, leasing or otherwise disposing of property within the Capitol Complex. The Texas Facilities Commission can only develop a property within the Capitol Complex using the public private partnership process if specifically authorized by the Legislature.</p> <p>SB 894 also excludes properties in the Capitol Complex from the General Land Office's real property inventory and evaluation process.</p>	Exclude any properties within the complex from future reviews.
SCR 27	Rodriguez/ Marquez	Urging the United State Congress to reauthorize Section 5056 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 and to appropriate sufficient funds for projects along the Rio Grande's main stem and tributaries.	June 14, 2013	The Rio Grande Environmental Management Program authority expired in September 2011, before any funds were appropriated to carry it out. This SCR urges congress to reauthorize Section 5056 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 and to appropriate sufficient funds to carry out the work related to that legislation.	None. Informational only.



Oil Spill

Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 115	Larson/ Uresti	Relating to identification numbers on vessels.	September 1, 2013	House Bill 115 requires that vessels operated in state waters have identification numbers and a registration decal placed on each side on the forward half of the vessel; was previously the bow (back).	Update markings on General Land Office boats
HB 1712	Lozano/ Zaffirini	Relating to exemptions from property taxation and sales and use taxation for certain offshore spill response and well containment property used to control pollution.	June 14, 2013	<p>HB 1712 entitles a person to an exemption from taxation for property that is used as part of an offshore spill response containment system.</p> <p>While current law authorizes property tax exemptions for pollution control equipment, the statute does not cover equipment held for a future event and by an entity that provides multiple member companies access to the equipment to meet federal pollution control rules; this bill fixes this problem.</p>	None. Informational only.



Veterans Homes and Cemeteries

Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 586	Workman/ Deuell	Relating to the wavier of sovereign immunity for certain design and construction arising under written contracts with state agencies.	September 1, 2013	HB 586 waives sovereign immunity for breach of contract suits over \$250,000 for engineering, architectural, or construction services or for materials related to engineering, architectural, or construction services.	Contracts will have to be adjusted to reflect the new provisions.
HB 2562	Farias/ Van de Putte	Relating to an annual report on expanding the use of the Public Assistance Reporting Information System prepared by the Texas Veterans Commission.	June 6, 2013	HB 2562 continues the PARIS program every year directing the Texas Veterans Land Board, The Texas Veterans Commission and the Department of Aging and Disability Services to report to the Legislature and Governor the progress of identifying veterans who are on public assistance that can obtain benefits from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. The bill expands the scope over previous legislation from one Texas County to a state wide effort including rural areas.	The Texas State Vet Homes Program will continue to participate in the program.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
HB 3196	Price/ Nelson	Relating to licensing, certification and arbitration requirements for certain health facilities and to the allocation of Medicaid beds in those facilities.	September 1, 2013	<p>HB 3196 will allow the Department of Aging and Disability Services to raise the annual license fee and bed fee required to be paid by nursing homes. It would also extend the period of Alzheimer's certification from one year to three. Finally, the bill would allow the Health and Human Services Commission to require a licensed nursing home seeking to increase the number of Medicaid beds in a facility to execute a performance bond in the amount of \$500,000.</p> <p>While 40 Tex. Admin. Code § 19.2322 specifically grants a waiver to the control of beds administered by the Department of Human Services, the Texas State Veterans Homes would benefit from having this exception and an exception to the performance bond requirement incorporated into the statute. The resulting fiscal impact to the Veterans Land Board is an increase in license fee that would cost the Veterans Land Board an additional \$7,400 per year. To the extent the Veterans Land Board sought to certify additional beds for Medicaid, there is the potential for an additional charge for the bond.</p>	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 7	Nelson/ Raymond	Relating to improving the delivery and quality of certain health and human services, including the delivery and quality of Medicaid acute care services and long-term care services and supports	September 1, 2013	<p>The bill would require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) to design and implement a Medicaid acute care services and long-term care services and support systems for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), to be implemented in two stages over a five year period. The first stage authorizes HHSC and DADS to implement pilot programs to test one or more capitated managed care service delivery models for long-term services and support programs required to be implemented no later than September 1, 2016 and to operate for at least two years, but not beyond September 1, 2018.</p> <p>This stage will also require HHSC to provide acute care services for individuals with IDD through a managed care model, which could include the STAR+PLUS Medicaid managed care program. Finally, the first stage would require HHSC to implement under STAR+PLUS and STAR Kids the most cost-effective option, which also maximizes federal funding, for the delivery of basic attendant and rehabilitation services for individuals with IDD. The second stage would require HHSC to transition individuals enrolled in the Texas Home Living waiver to a managed care model, which could include STAR+PLUS.</p>	None. Informational only.



Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 348	Schwertner/ Kolkhorst	Relating to utilization review process for managed care organizations participating in the STAR + PLUS Medicaid managed care program.	May 18, 2013	<p>SB 348 requires the Health and Human Services Commission (Commission) to review Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) relating to STAR + PLUS Medicaid (STAR +) program. The Commission's Office of Inspector General (OIG) must establish an annual utilization review process for MCOs participating in STAR +. This process must investigate each MCO's procedures for determining whether recipients should be enrolled in STAR +. This includes conducting functional assessments.</p> <p>The annual requirements for the OIG is that they shall review all MCOs participating in STAR + or those only MCOs that have a higher likelihood to inappropriate client placement in STAR +. However, in the State Fiscal Biennium ending 8/31/15, the OIG must review all MCOs participating in STAR +. The Commission must annually report back to the standing committees of the House and Senate on (1) a summary of the results, (2) the specific errors committed by each MCO, and (3) recommendations with the first report due 12/1/14. However, if a state agency determines that a federal waiver/authorization is necessary, this provision's implementation may be delayed until such waiver/authorization is granted.</p>	The Texas State Veterans Homes will likely have to undergo review of their procedures. That would require the operators' staff to respond to and assist the OIG during this review process.



Bill Number	Author/ Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 700	Hegar/ Kacal	Relating to energy and water management planning and reporting by state agencies and institutions of higher education.	September 1, 2013	SB 700 requires the State Energy Conservation Commission to develop a template for state agencies and higher education institutions to report on percentage goals for reducing the use of water, electricity, gasoline and natural gas.	The General Land Office will need to establish goals and include those goals in the agency's comprehensive energy and water management plan.
SB 746	Nelson/ Kolkhorst	Relating to unlawful acts against and criminal offenses involving the Medicaid program.	September 1, 2013	SB 746 amends the Human Resources Code to specify that a person commits an unlawful act if they conspire to commit a violation under any of the provisions of Section 36.002 (1)-(13) and to make it unlawful to knowingly conceal or knowingly and improperly avoid or decrease an obligation to pay or transmit money or property under the Medicaid program. It also specifies that a person pursuing an action under this subsection may file suit for claims that accrued on or after September 1, 1995; amends Sections 36.110 of the code to increase the amount that a court may award, not more than 10 percent of the proceeds of the action and must determine expenses, fees, and costs to be awarded after the defendant has been found liable or the claim is settled; changes the standards for dismissal of a claim; It also repeals a section which requires the court to give the attorney general an opportunity to oppose the dismissal before dismissing an action as barred.	The Veterans Land Board and its personnel may be liable for conspiring to commit a violation of Medicaid requirements. There are, however, auditing and monitoring systems in place to ensure that the operators are acting in compliance with Medicaid requirements. The agency will need to monitor the operator(s) to insure compliance.



Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 1297	Watson/ Branch	Relating to written communications between members of a governmental body.	September 1, 2013	SB 1297 would allow governmental bodies to create message boards that would be viewable and searchable by the public, and where members of the governmental bodies could communicate without the communications being constituted as deliberations or a public meeting. The communications would be required to be posted on the message board and viewable and searchable by the public for at least 30 days. The message board would have to be maintained by the governmental body, prominently displayed on the governmental body's website, and only members of the governmental body could post on the message board. Although a message could be removed from the message board after 30 days, the message would have to be maintained for six years and would be considered public information under the Public Information Act. In addition, SB 1297 would not allow the governmental body to take action or vote by posting on the message board, and no message posted on such a board could be considered as the governmental body taking action. The message board must be searchable by the public.	Should the General Land Office decide to create a message board, there would be operational and some fiscal implementation required.



Veterans Land and Housing

Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Final Caption	Effective Date	Summary/Program Impact	Implementation Required
SB 247	Carona/ Miller	Relating to the transfer of an ad valorem tax lien; providing an administrative penalty.	September 1, 2013	SB 247 would change the procedure by which a property tax lender or its assignee could foreclose on a property tax lien and would restrict the persons to whom such rights related to the property tax lien could be assigned to transferees licensed or exempt under Chapter 351 of the Finance Code. It also would amend Section 351.003 of the Finance Code, regarding property tax lenders, to prohibit a lender from selling, transferring, assigning, or releasing rights related to a property tax loan to a person who is not licensed under this chapter.	None. Informational only.
SB 1297	Watson/ Branch	Relating to written communications between members of a governmental body.	September 1, 2013	SB 1297 would allow governmental bodies to create message boards that would be viewable and searchable by the public, and where members of the governmental bodies could communicate without the communications being constituted as deliberations or a public meeting. The communications would be required to be posted on the message board and viewable and searchable by the public for at least 30 days. The message board would have to be maintained by the governmental body, prominently displayed on the governmental body's website, and only members of the governmental body could post on the	Should the General Land Office decide to create a message board, there would be operational and some fiscal implementation required.



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